

In the Description

1. On page 1, after the title of the invention, please add the following section heading and accompanying paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a U.S. national application under 37 C.F.R. § 371(b) of International Application Serial No. PCT/US2004/033647 filed October 12, 2004, which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/510,756 filed October 13, 2003.

Please amend the description as follows:

2. On page 5, lines 17-33. please amend the paragraph as follows:

Column 30 includes a pair of handles 34, a bracket 36 and an upper tapered socket 38 (also referred to as “yoke”). Bracket 36 has a first telescoping portion 40 extending downwardly from column 30 and a second cantilevered portion 42 carrying upper socket 38. As shown in Figs. 3 and 9, upper socket 38 has an upwardly opening bore 44. Bore 44 has an upper generally frustoconical portion 46 and a lower generally cylindrical portion 48. Upper frustoconical portion 46 varies in diameter from a large diameter to a small diameter in a downward direction. Upper socket 38 has a generally c-shaped cross section having spaced apart end portions 50, 52 which define an outwardly opening slot 54 in communication with bore 44. Spacing 56 between end portions 50, 52 of upper socket 38 is larger than the diameter 116 of a generally cylindrical intermediate portion 104 of post 24 to allow column-mounted upper socket 38 to pull away from post 24 after equipment support 20 is seated downwardly in a bed-mounted lower socket 78. Illustratively, ~~U.S. Patent Application (7175-74606), Serial No. 10/802,287, titled “RADIAL ARM SYSTEM FOR PATIENT CARE EQUIPMENT,” filed March 17, 2004,~~ now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0199996 A1[[,]] discloses such ~~column-mounted column~~ equipment and is incorporated by reference herein.

3. On page 6, lines 1-16, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Illustratively, first portion 40 of bracket 36 telescopes vertically relative to column 30 under the power of an electric motor (not shown) housed in column 30. Electric motor may be a Linak LA 31 Linear Actuator. Electric motor may be actuated by either a toggle switch (not shown) positioned on column 30, or a wired or wireless remote control. Such vertical telescoping movement of bracket 36 permits equipment support 20 to be raised and lowered for optimal positioning of patient care equipment 23 relative to a patient resting on a patient support. Also, such vertical telescoping movement of bracket 36 facilitates transfer of equipment support 20 between service column 30 and hospital bed 32. Additionally, such vertical telescoping movement permits the docking of equipment support 20 with a bed-mounted socket, as disclosed, for example, in ~~U.S. Patent Application (7175-74605), Ser. No. 10/802,289, titled "PATIENT CARE EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM," filed March 17, 2004, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0000019-A1, which is incorporated by reference herein.~~ Illustratively, bracket 36 may move as much as 12 to 18 inches (30.48 to 45.72 cm) relative to column 30.

4. On page 6, line 29 through page 7, line 5, please amend the paragraph as follows:

A rail 72 is supported by frame member 66. A carriage 74 is coupled to rail 72 for movement along rail 72. Carriage 74 includes a lower tapered socket 78. Lower socket 78 has an upwardly opening frustoconical bore 80. As shown in Fig. 3, frustoconical bore 80 varies in diameter from a large diameter to a small diameter in a downward direction. Carriage 74 is lockable at any one of a plurality of locations 81 along rail 72. Lower socket 78 includes an upwardly extending upper lock release button 82. Illustratively, ~~PCT Patent Application (7175-74739), Serial No. PCT/US2004/, titled "PATIENT CARE EQUIPMENT SUPPORT SYSTEM," filed concurrently herewith, now PCT Publication No. WO 2005/037164[[,]]~~ discloses such a hospital bed and is incorporated by reference herein.